

Harbormaster

After a Townwide vote in June 2005, the role of the Harpswell Harbormaster was increased to a fulltime position. I was promoted from Deputy Harbormaster to this position. I thank Todd Steinman and the Harbormasters before him for the work that had been done prior to July 2005. I also thank the Harbor & Waterfront Committee and Town Officials for their support in developing a Harbor Management Plan.

Most of the shoreline south and northeast of Harpswell has been closed to new moorings for a number of years. Harpswell is fortunate in that it still has available space for new moorings. However, many areas of Harpswell waters have reached full capacity. With the increasing population and growing demand for new moorings in Harpswell, a Harbor Management Plan is needed to balance supply and demand, and prevent overcrowding of moorings while protecting traditional fishing grounds. With the increasing demand for new mooring permits comes the need to close off areas of the shorefront to new moorings. When this happens a waiting list is initiated as stated in article 5.3.2 of the Town of Harpswell Harbor and Waterfront Ordinance, Section 5.



Jim Hays, Harbormaster

In order to satisfy those who are on waiting lists and to prevent overcrowding by moorings in Harpswell waters, I will start this season on the water locating and identifying abandoned/unregistered moorings and then have these removed in accordance with Sections 4 and 5 of the Harbor and Waterfront Ordinance.

Moorings, without a registration number permanently painted or burned into mooring balls, will be considered unregistered and subject to removal as defined in Section 5 of the Ordinance. This will open up needed mooring space and help to provide new mooring locations in harbors that have waiting lists as is the situation in Mackerel Cove, and to date seven (7) other separate harbor locations in Harpswell.

In 2005 I began the process of mooring inventory and GPS plotting of mooring locations throughout Harpswell. In that process I was able to talk to a number of people about waterfront issues and concerns. I will be back on the water in the spring continuing to inventory moorings, plotting mooring locations, and tending to waterfront concerns. I can be reached by calling the Town Office (833-5771).

The following are some of the activities I have been involved in in 2005:

- Attended the Maine Harbormasters training in April
- Worked with the Town Officials and Harbor & Waterfront Committee on the Harbor Management Plan
- Manually counted 835 moorings
- Plotted 1200 moorings into a GPS program
- Processed 135 mooring applications
- Provided transportation for Codes Enforcement inspections on Harpswell's outer islands